

<sup>2</sup>  
~~26.~~ A DNA molecule having a sequence consisting of nucleotides which encode amino acids 112 to 607 of a hepatitis E virus open reading frame 2 protein.

<sup>3</sup>  
~~27.~~ A DNA molecule having a sequence consisting of nucleotides which encode amino acids 112 to 578 of a hepatitis E virus open reading frame 2 protein.

<sup>4</sup>  
~~28.~~ The DNA molecule of claim ~~25~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the molecule encodes a protein having its amino-terminus at amino acid 112 of SEQ ID NO:2 and its carboxy-terminus at an amino acid in the range of amino acids 578 to 607 of SEQ ID NO:2.

<sup>5</sup>  
~~29.~~ The DNA molecule of claim ~~26~~<sup>2</sup>, wherein the molecule encodes amino acids 112 to 607 of SEQ ID NO:2.

<sup>6</sup>  
~~30.~~ The DNA molecule of claim ~~27~~<sup>3</sup>, wherein the molecule encodes amino acids 112-578 of SEQ ID NO:2.

<sup>7</sup>  
~~31.~~ A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA molecule according to claims ~~25~~<sup>1</sup>, ~~26~~<sup>2</sup>, ~~27~~<sup>3</sup>, ~~28~~<sup>4</sup>, ~~29~~<sup>5</sup> or ~~30~~<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>8</sup>  
~~32.~~ A host cell containing an expression vector according to claim ~~31~~<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>9</sup>  
~~33.~~ A method of producing a recombinant hepatitis E virus open reading frame 2 protein, said method comprising:

- (a) culturing a host cell of claim 32 under conditions appropriate to cause expression of said protein; and
- (b) obtaining said expressed protein from the host cell.